

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 13473 01 OF 02 261321Z

43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 FAA-00 SY-05 SCCT-01

IO-13 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 /107 W

----- 001698

R 261311Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4880

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 13473

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PREBOARDING SECURITY INSPECTION OF
CHARTER PASSENGERS AT GATWICK AIRPORT

REF: (A) LONDON A-475; (B) LONDON 9490 (6/18/76)

1. DEPT. OF TRADE OFFICIAL IN AVIATION SECURITY OFFICE (FARMERY) CALLED AT EMBASSY AUG. 25 TO OUTLINE PROBLEM WITH US CHARTER AIR CARRIERS OPERATING FROM GATWICK AIRPORT. US CARRIERS INVOLVED (TIA, WORLD, OVERSEAS NATIONAL) ARE OBJECTING TO OR BOARDING INSPECTION OF SOME OF THEIR PASSENGERS.

2. FARMERY NOTED THAT UK HAS BEEN CONCERNED THAT LACK OF PREBOARDING INSPECTION OF CHARTER PASSENGERS, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF INCREASINGLY RIGOROUS CHECKS MADE ON SCHEDULED PASSENGERS, LEFT WIDE LOOPHOLE IN AVIATION SECURITY FOR POTENTIAL HIJACK OF A CHARTER FLIGHT. POSSIBILITY FOR HIJACK OF CHARTER FLIGHT CONSIDERED BY UK TO BE INCREASING DUE TO NEW LESS RESTRICTIVE CHARTER RULES. THIS IS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 13473 01 OF 02 261321Z

PARTICULARLY TRUE IN EUROPE, SINCE MOST CHARTER PASSENGER

MOVE ON INTRA-EUROPEAN INCLUSIVE TOUR CHARTERS WHICH OFTEN DO NOT HAVE LONG ADVANCE BOOKING REQUIREMENT OF TRANS-ATLANTIC OR US DOMESTIC CHARTERS OF THIS TYPE. THERE IS NO PROBLEM WITH AFFINITY CHARTERS SINCE THEY ARE FEW IN NUMBER AND AFFINITY ASPECT WOULD MAKE PENETRATION BY POTENTIAL HIJACKER DIFFICULT. IN LIGHT OF THIS CONCERN WITH CHARTER FLIGHT SECURITY, UK HAS RECENTLY ADVISED UK CARRIERS THAT ALL THEIR CHARTER PASSENGERS MUST BE PUT THROUGH PREBOARDING SECURITY INSPECTION. NON-UK CARRIERS HAVE NOT YET BEEN DIRECTED TO TAKE THIS ACTION, ALTHOUGH REQUIREMENT MAY BE EXTENDED TO THEM LATER.

3. WHILE US CHARTER OPERATORS NOT YET REQUIRED TO HAVE PASSENGERS INSPECTED PRIOR TO BOARDING, AT GATWICK ONE OF THREE LOADING PIERS (NORTH PIER) HAS BEEN MADE INTO A COMMON PIER FOR INSPECTION AND ALL PASSENGERS PASSING THROUGH THE AREA TO FLIGHTS MUST BE INSPECTED TO MAINTAIN SECURITY. APPARENTLY, ONLY RELATIVELY FEW OF US CARRIERS FLIGHTS ARE HANDLED THROUGH SECURE NORTH PIER AT GATWICK AND UK SECURITY AND GATWICK AIRPORT AUTHORITIES ARE MAKING EFFORT TO INSURE TO GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE THAT PASSENGERS FOR US CARRIER FLIGHTS ARE DIRECTED THROUGH CENTER AND SOUTH PIERS. NONETHELESS, FOR OPERATIONAL REASONS, AIRCRAFT PARKING, ETC., SOME US CARRIER FLIGHTS HAVE TO BE HANDLED THROUGH NORTH PIER. WHEN THIS HAS OCCURRED, US CARRIERS HAVE OBJECTED STRONGLY TO HAVING THEIR PASSENGERS SEARCHED ALTHOUGH, TO DATE, THERE HAS BEEN NO CHARGE FOR SUCH SEARCHES.

4. REAL PROBLEM WITH US CHARTER CARRIERS WILL ARISE WHEN UK BEGINS SOON TO CHARGE THEM FOR INSPECTION SERVICE SINCE US IS NON-RECIPROCATING COUNTRY IN THE MATTER OF PAYING FOR AVIATION SECURITY AND INSPECTION COSTS (SEE REFS). IT IS ON THIS PROBLEM THAT UK HAS ASKED:

(A) WHAT IS US PROCEDURE WITH RESPECT TO PREBOARDING INSPECTIONS OF CHARTER FLIGHTS;

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 13473 02 OF 02 261318Z

44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 FAA-00 SY-05 SCCT-01

IO-13 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 /107 W

----- 001643

R 261311Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4881

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 13473

(B) WHAT ARE US VIEWS ON INSPECTION OF CHARTER FLIGHTS
REQUIRED BY UK.

5. WE TOLD FARMERY WE UNDERSTAND THAT DUE TO EXPERIENCE
OF NEVER HAVING HAD A US CHARTER FLIGHT HIJACKED AND FACT
THAT UNTIL RECENTLY MOST US CHARTERS WERE AFFINITY TYPE,
WHICH ARE NOT CONSIDERED TO BE EASILY PENETRATED BY HI-
JACKER AS WELL AS DETERRENT OF 60-DAY ADVANCE BOOKING
REQUIREMENT ON TGCS AND OTHERS, US HAD NOT SEEN THE NEED
TO APPLY PREBOARDING CHECK TO CHARTERS. WASHINGTON GUID-
ANCE ON THIS POINT WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

6. COMMENT: /WHILE WE HAVE NO FACTUAL DATA ON LIKELIHOOD
OF HIJACK OF CHARTER FLIGHT IN UK, FROM WHAT FARMERY TOLD
US IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT UK HAS GOOD GROUNDS TO FEAR
POSSIBLE HIJACK OF CHARTER FLIGHT FROM UK AIRPORT AND THAT
ACTION TAKEN TO PLUG THE LOOPHOLE IN AVIATION SECURITY AT
UK AIRPORTS, AT LEAST IN RESPECT OF UK OPERATORS, IS A
REASONABLE ONE. IF RELATIVELY FEW US CARRIER FLIGHTS WILL
BE EFFECTED, WE WOULD HOPE THAT US CARRIERS WILL BE ABLE
TO COOPERATE WITH UK IN THIS EFFORT TO PROVIDE INCREASED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 13473 02 OF 02 261318Z

SECURITY FOR CHARTER PASSENGERS.

ARMSTRONG

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROTECTIVE SECURITY, POLICIES, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES, PASSENGERS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON13473
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760326-0091
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760817/aaaaaomv.tel
Line Count: 161
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LONDON A-475, 76 LONDON 9490
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <25 JAN 2005 by morandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: PREBOARDING SECURITY INSPECTION OF CHARTER PASSENGERS AT GATWICK AIRPORT
TAGS: EAIR, UK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006